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Report of the Economic and Social Council

Programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2004

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2004 (A/59/393). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information.

2. The revised estimates relate to a series of Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions outlined in the report of the Secretary-General. The Committee notes with appreciation that, as it had requested, the report includes a full costing of the new requirements, broken down into costs that can be met through existing resources and those that entail additional appropriations.

3. As indicated in paragraph 40 of the report, the implications of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council at its substantive session of 2004 would give rise to estimated requirements of $1,537,600, of which $964,000 could be absorbed within the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005. The remaining requirements of $573,600 for the biennium 2004-2005 would be subject to the procedures established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and 42/211 of 21 December 1987 for the operation of the contingency fund. The balance remaining in the contingency fund, as indicated in part XVI of Assembly resolution 58/272 of 23 December 2003, is $11,314,500.

4. The Advisory Committee requested and received information concerning the current performance for the affected sections of the programme budget. The information received indicates that, at the present stage, there is under-expenditure.

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The Advisory Committee would expect that this situation would lead to an additional capacity to absorb and intends to take this into account when it considers the possible appropriation of the amount requested by the Secretary-General.

5. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee take note of the estimate of $573,600, on the understanding that such appropriations as may be necessary will be requested by the Secretary-General in the context of a consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates to be submitted to the General Assembly.**